WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Federal Emergency Management Agency on Wednesday awarded the Salinas Fire Department an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$124,406.

" This grant comes from Department of Homeland Security funds, and as I've argued for years, homeland security needs to be thought of as hometown security, " said Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel). " Ensuring the effectiveness of our emergency responders is key to public safety, and this grant will help the Salinas Fire Department maintain its high level of preparedness. "

The Salinas Fire Department can direct these funds to a variety of uses, including training, health and safety programs, and equipment and response vehicles.

"The Assistance to Firefighters Grants program has been instrumental in building capacity and providing needed resources for our nation's firefighters," said FEMA Administrator R. David Paulison. "From the purchase of equipment to first responder training, the AFG program has helped improve response capabilities and saved lives and property in communities throughout the United States."

For more information, visit www.firegrantsupport.com.

###